

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider this application in the light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

AMENDMENTS

The specification has been amended for the purpose of correcting minor errors. No new matter is added by the amendments to the specification.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner objected to Claim 1 because of the following informalities: "characterized in that" should be read --wherein--. Claim 1 has been cancelled. New claim 2 does not include the expression "characterized in that". Accordingly, it is believed that the Examiner's objection is moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. 57-95224 A (Akazawa) in view of German Patent DE 42 03 329 A1 (Kadereit et al.), and U.S. Patent No. 2,239,917 (Hunter et al.). In explaining the reasons for this rejection, the Examiner indicated that Akazawa discloses a height adjusting device that is basically the same as that recited in claim 1 except that the device lacks supporting pins, as recited in the claims. The Examiner further explained that Kadereit et al. shows a height adjusting device similar to that of Akazawa wherein the device has a linkage member 18 (see Fig. 4) cooperating with side frame sections 12, a connecting rod 14 rotatably supported to the side frame sections, and supporting pins 69 with first end portions penetrated through the linkage member and fitted in both ends of the connecting shaft, and second end portions of the supporting pins being penetrated through the side frame sections and riveted over. The Examiner reasoned that while Akazawa and Kadereit et al. do not specify how the connecting shaft is attached, Hunter et al. teach a height adjusting device wherein a connecting shaft 25 (see Fig. 4) is attached via welding. The Examiner then concluded as follows.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Akazawa to

include supporting pins with the first and second end portions, the first end portions being penetrated through the rearward linkage members, welded to the rearward linkage members, and fitted in both ends of the connecting shaft, the second end portions being penetrated through the spaced apart side frame sections and riveted over whereby the connecting shaft is rotatably supporting to the side frame sections and the rearward linkage members being welded to the connecting shaft, such as the devices disclosed by Kadereit et al. and Hunter et al. One would have been motivated to make such a modification in view of the suggestion in Kadereit et al. that the supporting pins provide rotatable attachment to linkages and in view of the suggestion in Hunter et al. that welding to attach the connecting shafts allow [sic] for firm securement.

Applicant's claimed device, as set forth in new Claim 2, includes the following features:

“a first supporting pin comprising a first end portion, a second end portion, and a first circumferential flange portion provided between the first and second end portions;

the second end portion of the first supporting pin comprising a first large diameter region and a first relatively small diameter region; and

a second supporting pin comprising a third end portion, a fourth end portion, and a second circumferential flange portion provided between the third and fourth end portions;

said fourth end portion of the second supporting pin comprising a second large diameter region and a second relatively small diameter region;

said first end portion of the first supporting pin being penetrated through one of said rearward linkage members with said first circumferential flange portion thereof contacting an outer surface of said one of the rearward linkage members and welded to said outer surface of said one of the rearward linkage members;

said first end of the first pipe-shaped connecting shaft being fitted over the first end portion of the first supporting pin so as to contact an inner surface of said one of said rearward linkage members and welded to said inner surface;

said second end portion of said first supporting pin being penetrated through said first side frame section and riveted at said first relatively small diameter region thereof over said outer surface of said first side frame section;

said third end portion of said second supporting pin being penetrated through another of said rearward linkage members with said second circumferential flange portion thereof contacting an outer surface of said other of said rearward linkage members and welded to said outer surface of the other of the rearward linkage members;

said second end of the first pipe-shaped connecting shaft being fitted over said third end portion of said second supporting pin so as to contact an inner surface of said other of said rearward linkage members and welded to said inner surface of said other of said rearward linkage members; and

said fourth end portion of said second supporting pin being penetrated through said second side frame section and riveted at said second relatively small diameter region thereof over an outer surface of said second side frame section.”

In the Applicant's claimed height adjusting device, each of the claimed supporting pins has a circumferential flange portion that is located between the first and second end portions of the pin. The circumferential flange portion provides easy and reliable connecting of the supporting pins to their respective rearward linkage member. That connection is made by welding the circumferential flange portion to the rearward linkage member. Moreover, the second end portion of the supporting pins has a larger diameter section and a smaller diameter section. The smaller diameter section of the second end portion of the supporting pins facilitates the riveting of the second end portion of the supporting pin over the outer surface of the side frame section. In the Applicant's claimed method as set forth in new Claim 6 provides a height adjustment device that has the same functions and advantages provided by the Applicant's claimed device as set forth in new Claim 2.

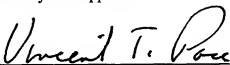
Akazawa, Kadereit et al., and Hunter et al., either alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest the above-mentioned features and advantages of the Applicant's claimed device and method of making same. Accordingly, Applicant submits that subject matter of new Claims 2 and 6 is patentable over Akazawa, Kadereit et al. and Hunter et al. and, therefore, new Claims 2 and 6 are in condition for allowance.

New Claims 3 to 5 depend from new Claim 2 either directly or indirectly and therefore, they are allowable for at least the same reason as new Claim 2. New Claim 7 depends from new Claim 6 and therefore, it is allowable for at least the same reason as new Claim 6.

CONCLUSION

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the claims of this application as now presented are in condition for allowance. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the application in the light of the foregoing amendments and remarks.

Respectfully submitted,
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